

Appl. No. 10/710,395  
Amdt. dated October 28, 2005  
Reply to Office action of August 08, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### 1. Rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

##### Response:

5       The applicant's invention amended "the at least one temperature sensor" of claim 3 to "a temperature sensor". No new matter is introduced through this amendment.

2. Rejection of claim 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Ikeno  
10 et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911).

##### Response:

15       The draining effect of the automatic photoresist feed system 45 in the applicant's invention could not be achieved by Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911). The circulation cup 12 and the drain pipe 13 are only a common funnel and tube for collecting the photoresist solution. In Col 3, lines 28-34 of Yoshio (US 5,778,911) recite "A circulation cup 12 is installed at the home position and the treatment liquid 6 received by the circulating cup 12 is output to a liquid tank 16 through a  
20 drain pipe 13". It is obvious that the circulation cup 12 and the drain pipe 13 in Yoshio (US 5,778,911) cannot drain the photoresist solution from the tank and deliver the solution into the nozzle.

25       If the spin coating apparatus of Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) is combined with the circulation cup 12, the drain pipe 13 of Yoshio (US 5,778,911), the photoresist solution passes from the valve 9, the nozzle 10 of Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012), and the solution is collected by the circulation cup 12 and a drain pipe 13 of Yoshio (US 5,778,911). The

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photoresist solution could not smear on the substrate, but could collect into a bottle such as the tank 16 in Fig. 2.

The automatic photoresist feed system 45 of the applicant's invention  
5 lets the photoresist solutions 35, 36 drain from the tank 32 and allows  
delivery to the nozzle 50. Thus, the structure of Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012)  
in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911) could not achieve the draining and  
delivering effect of the automatic photoresist feed system 45 in the  
applicant's invention. Thus, the claims 1 are patentably distinguishable  
10 from Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911).  
Reconsideration of the claim 1 is politely requested.

As claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 are dependent upon claim 1, they should be  
allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 is  
15 therefore requested.

3. Rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Ikeno et al. (US  
4,886,012) in view of Fukuda (US 5,733,375) or Anderson et al. (US 5,058,805) as claim 1  
being unpatentable over Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911)  
20 above.

**Response:**

As claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, it should be allowed if claim 1  
is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 2 is therefore requested.  
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4. Rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Ikeno et al. (US  
4,886,012) in view of Ishii (US 6,903,303) as claim 1 being unpatentable over Ikeno et al.  
(US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911) above.

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**Response:**

As claim 6 is dependent upon claim 1, it should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 6 is therefore requested.

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5. Rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Sakamoto (US 6,193,783) as claim 1 being unpatentable over Ikeno et al. (US 4,886,012) in view of Yoshio (US 5,778,911) above.

10 **Response:**

As claim 9 is dependent upon claim 1, it should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 9 is therefore requested.

15 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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Date: Oct. 28, 2005

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)